

SEP 19 2006

Application No. 10/673,809
Amendment dated 09/19/2006
Reply to Office Action of June 22, 2006

02-ASD-271(EM)

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-18 and 27 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

Listing of Claims:

1 through 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method of sealing at the juncture of a valve deactivation manifold, an engine block and an engine cylinder head sealed over the cylinders with a head gasket comprising:
- (a) providing a sealing surface on an edge of the cylinder head gasket;
 - (b) forming a one-piece seal member of elastomeric material with three portions thereof each extending from a common region in a discrete direction; and, forming a strain distributor of material significantly more rigid than said elastomeric material and embedding said distributor in said elastomeric material in said common region; and,
 - (c) disposing said seal member at said juncture and contacting the sealing surface with one of said three portions of said seal member.
20. (Original) The method defined in claim 19, wherein said step of contacting includes interdigitating.
21. (Original) The method defined in claim 19, wherein said step of forming a strain distributor includes forming of material having a hardness of at least 10 on the Shore "A" scale greater than said elastomeric material.
22. (Original) The method defined in claim 19, wherein said step of forming a strain distributor includes forming of one of elastomeric, metallic and plastic material.

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23. (Original) The method defined in claim 19, wherein said step of forming a one-piece seal member includes molding.
24. (Original) The method defined in claim 19, wherein said step of disposing a distributor includes insert molding.
25. (Original) The method defined in claim 19, wherein said step of forming a seal member includes forming a member having a durometer not greater than about 75 on the Shore "A" scale.
26. (Original) The method defined in claim 19, wherein said step of forming a seal member includes forming one of said three portions oriented at right angles to a plane formed by the other two of said three portions.
27. (Cancelled)